

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended figure 1 to incorporate the previously proposed amendments to Figure 1 and to add reference characters --62d-- and --62e--. Figure 2 has been amended to correct a clerical error, i.e., changes "52b" (on the right side of Figure 2) to --62b-- and to add reference character --62d--.

Claims 1 - 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the patent to Dean et al. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

While the Examiner provides US Patent No. 4,353,313 in parentheses in the statement of the rejection, it is noted that US Patent No. 4,353,313 is the previously cited patent to Panagin, not a patent to Dean et al. On the other hand, the Form PTO-892 accompanying the office action indicates the Dean et al patent to be US Patent No. 2,294,357. Since the Examiner's comments concerning the disclosure of Dean et al appear to relate to United States Patent No. 2,294,357, it is presumed the rejection of the claims is in view of United States Patent No. 2,294,357 to Dean et al.

The present invention relates to a manufacturing method of a structural body, to a structural body, and to a car body of a railway vehicle. Claims 1 - 4, 6, 7, 10 - 13, 15, 16, 19 - 22, 24 and 25 involve the use of first and second plates or an extruded frame member and a second plate in which the first plate or the extruded frame member has a recessed portion and the second plate has a raised portion protruding therefrom. As set forth in these claims, the raised portion is inserted in and abutted to the recessed portion and the respective abutted portions welded. As set forth in claims 5 - 9, 14 - 18 and 23 - 27, the first plate or extruded frame member

comprises plural ribs along an extrusion direction. These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Dean et al '357.

The Dean et al patent discloses a vehicle body construction having an end wall structure including sub-assemblies D¹, D², D³ to which the Examiner refers in the reasons supporting the rejection. However, the office action makes absolutely no mention of any of the sub-assemblies having a recessed portion and being abutted to and joined to another sub-assembly having a raised portion protruding therefrom. In fact, it appears the Dean et al '357 patent does not disclose the use of first and second plates or an extruded frame member and a second plate in which the first plate or extruded frame member has a recessed portion and the second plate has a raised portion protruding therefrom, the raised portion being inserted in and abutted to the recessed portion and the respective abutted portions welded, as presently claimed. Therefore, it appears the Dean et al '357 patent does not anticipate claims 1 - 4, 6, 7, 10 - 13, 15, 16, 19 - 22, 24 and 25.

The office action makes no mention of Dean et al '357 disclosing a first plate or extruded frame member comprising plural ribs along an extrusion direction. In fact, it does not appear that the Dean et al '357 discloses extruded members. Accordingly, it is submitted the Dean et al '357 patent does not anticipate claims 5 - 9, 14 - 18 and 23 - 27.

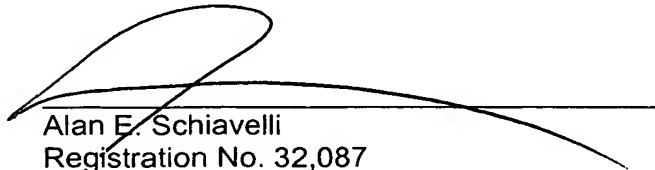
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition or allowance.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.40902X00),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Alan E. Schiavelli
Registration No. 32,087

AES/jla
(703) 312-6600